

PREFACE.

How a brave spirit may not only conquer obstacles, but climb by means of them to unrivalled eminence and usefulness; how a mysterious providence originated a hard and healthful discipline, and by it, wrought out its own benignant purposes; how deafness, privations, and disappointments could not 'choke the life from out' a tender and manly heart; how the love of literature fed itself amidst rags and wretchedness, and ultimately realised its boldest dreams; and what perseverance, armed with courage and leaning on faith, can achieve,—may be learned from the following biography.

Dr KITTO always purposed to write out his own life, and unfold its great lessons. When he first resided at Islington, the plan was so far matured, that he proposed, in a letter to Mr HARVEY, October 17, 1826, to divide the sketch into three parts—1. From Birth to the Workhouse; 2. From the Workhouse to Exeter; 3. From Exeter to leaving England. A month afterwards, he wrote to the same memorial of an eventful and laborious life, no unbecoming intrusion on the public notice.' What Dr KITTO was prevented, alas! by an early death, from doing, we have endeavoured in these pages, to do for him; though, certainly, we could not hope to invest the work with those charms and attractions which he, in his own style and way, would, as author and subject, have thrown around it. Still, Dr KITTO told his story so often and to so many persons, and so voluminous are the papers and correspondence which he has left behind him, that from its free use of this wealth of material, the following volume may be regarded as virtually an autobiography, with some comments interspersed for the sake of connection and illustration.

We come into no invidious comparison with Mr RYLAND'S full and excellent Memoirs, the form and object of our labours being so different in their nature and design. Mr RYLAND'S selections and unpublished transcriptions from Dr KITTO'S Letters and Journals, have saved us much trouble and time, and we accord him our hearty thanks. It will be seen, however, that we have not only made an independent use of such papers as our predecessor has employed, but have added, from other sources, numerous new incidents, extracts, and illustrations of character. The whole of Dr limo's manuscripts were confided to us by his family, at whose request and that of the publishers of the previous Memoirs, this work was undertaken. We were also kindly favoured with the use of numerous parcels of letters, which have been preserved by the various friends to whom they had been originally addressed. Our object has been, to tell the story, develop the moral, and recount and estimate the labours of Dr KITTO'S life, within a brief compass; and if we have not wholly failed, the book will be found to be one, not only

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of interest in the strange vicissitudes which it pictures, but one also of profit in the impressive teachings with which it is so signally fraught.

13, LANSDOWNE CRESCENT, GLASGOW,

May 22, 1857.